Derailment of Matsyagandha Express

†3785. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Matsyagandha Express which passes through Konkan rail line, got derailed recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons injured/died in this accident, together with the amount of loss caused to Government property;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof, together with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The train derailed at KM 322/2-4 between Kankavali and Sindhudurg at about 01.50 hours on 10- 03-2000 on Konkan Railway.

(b) Three passengers died, seven grievously injured and 12 sustained simple injuries and total amount of loss to Government property is approximately one crore rupees.

(c) Ex-gratia payment was made to the next of kin of the deceased victims at the rate of Rs. 15000/- each and at the rate of Rs. 5000/- each to the grievously injured and Rs. 500/- each to the simple injured passengers. Compensation to the eligible passengers/next of kin will be paid as per the decree of Railway Claims Tribunal, Mumbai. No details of payment of compensation by Railway Claims Tribunal, Mumbai are availabe as yet.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle, Mumbai conducted investigation and as per his findings, accident took place due to failure of slope caused by sudden convulsion of nature. As recommended by Commissioner for Railway Safety, to review the characteristics of rock/soil strata in all cuttings, an Expert Committee has been nominated to suggest remedial measures to arrest such failures of slope.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.